

12-10-2003

## Hawks' Herald - December 10, 2003

Roger Williams University

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### Recommended Citation

Roger Williams University, "Hawks' Herald - December 10, 2003" (2003). *Hawk's Herald*. Paper 13.  
[http://docs.rwu.edu/hawk\\_herald/13](http://docs.rwu.edu/hawk_herald/13)

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# HAWK'S HERALD

Volume 14, Issue 9

Roger Williams University

Wednesday, December 10, 2003

## Online registration silences its critics

By Jared Lindh

Staff Writer

"If the RWU sever has difficulty handing the normal day to day instant messenger conversation, why would IT (Information Technology) think it possible to use the internet as a tool for registering?" said a sophomore business student at the thought of online class registration.

The majority of class registration for the spring semester is now finished, however, one wouldn't think the notoriously unstable Roger Williams University Internet would make the best vehicle for course selection. But, as the first two weeks of registration have shown, things aren't always what they seem.

Director of IT, Joseph

Pangborn, said that on the whole, class registration has never gone smoother. Pangborn was happy to say that 77% of the 3100 students were able to register (as of Nov. 25), using the Campus Cruiser program.

He went on to say that lines for schedule-fixing at the Registrar were minimal, and the three open phone lines were idle for the most part, good signs indeed. "The only restriction students should face with class registration is course availability, not busy signals or long lines," Pangborn said with confidence.

The Campus Cruiser program was brought to RWU last year, when the administration and student leadership selected it from a field of several candidates. Through Campus Cruiser, students can review their

*continued on Page 3*



Photo: Laurie Schorr

Two students peer into the metro campus gallery to admire a juried exhibition.

See art work, page

## Political ideologies tested at campus debate

By Allisyn Deyo

Staff Writer

Thursday, Dec. 4, College of Arts & Sciences room 157 was the scene of the first debate in Roger Williams University history between the College Democrats and the College Republicans.

The debate, arranged by CHASE (Creating Hope Among Students Everywhere) the Vote, covered two divisive issues between the parties: partial-birth abortion and gay marriage. Sarah Bogdan, president of the College Democrats, and Jason Mattera, president of the College Republicans, debated for each party, while Political Science professor Dave Moskowitz moderated.

After winning a coin toss,

Mattera began the debate, broadcast live by WQRI, by taping a graphic poster depicting partial-birth abortion to the wall. After calling it an "intolerable violation of human dignity," he questioned why anyone would be for it, and sought to explain why it took so long to be banned.

Bogdan retaliated, stating that anti-abortion laws "discriminate against the poor," and that only a very small percentage (below 2%) of all abortions are designated "late-term." Her main argument, however, was simply that it is "a woman's choice."

Barbs were traded between the contestants, as Professor Moskowitz brought up the question of when the government should step in and "protect." No final consensus

*continued on Page 3*

## Leaps and bounds: X-country teams show heart in light of tragedies

By Blaine Moffa

News Editor

*The fall 2003 season for the RWU cross country teams started off with more than just a bump in the road. Although the personal setbacks were predominantly on the women's team, what affects on team affects the other.*

They mourned the losses of four best friends, one brother, a father, and a mother. Grimacing over broken shoulders, aching knees and inflamed joints,

they awakened with confidence and ran the paved streets in silent unison. They repeated this routine six days a week, averaging sixty miles; enough to make the more pedestrian among us collapse from imaginary side cramps. They laughed together, cried together, and conquered together.

This is the story of triumphant spirits.

On Nov. 1, the Roger Williams' men's and women's cross country teams finished first at the Commonwealth Coast Conference in Maine. It was the women's fourth consecutive conference win, an

RWU school record. The men placed first for the third consecutive year. The 13 weeks prior to that race have proven to be anything but easy for both teams. Their ability to succeed was powered by remarkable dedication and maturity.

It started in the beginning of the summer. Three runners, three best friends. In June, junior Chelsea Aiken lost her friend in a car accident. Aiken says the loss affected the beginning of her season.

"I felt like I was out of shape. I'd get frustrated at

*continued on Page 7*



Photo courtesy of Caroline Gates

Nothing can keep these women down. Katie Parise and Emily Labnon stride to the finish line at the pre-nationals.



See juried works, page 6



See runners shine, page 7-8

## In this Issue



See film reviews, pages 4-5



See winter's wrath, page 3



# EDITORIAL

Volume 14, Issue 9

Wednesday, December 10, 2003


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## A notice to our readers

This is the final issue of the Herald for the 2003 Fall semester. We will resume our publication in late January, but we want to know how we're doing. Send us feedback, tell us what you're sick of and tell us what you want to see more of. Most importantly let us know what YOU what covered in the spring. Send all feedback, questions, concerns, and story suggestions to: [HawksHerald@yahoo.com](mailto:HawksHerald@yahoo.com)

## We want you!

The Herald is always looking for new staff members. Reporters, photographers, web designers, and advertising staff are wanted for the Spring 2004 semester. Volunteer according to your own schedule and join our weekly paper. Be a part of covering issues important to students, seek advertisers, shoot photos, or help us launch the first online edition of the RWU student newspaper. Send all inquiries to: [HawksHerald@yahoo.com](mailto:HawksHerald@yahoo.com)

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FOLLOWING THE SNOWSTORM, BUSH MOVED ALL WHITE HOUSE  
ACTIVITY INTO HIS SNOW IGLOO



# NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 9

Wednesday, December 10, 2003

## Abortion issues discussed at Socrates' Cafe

By Aubrey Joyce

Staff Writer

"What is the morally relevant difference between late-term abortions and the killing of cows and other non-human animals?" That was the question up for discussion at the

Socrates' Café on Dec. 3, which was the final meeting to take place this fall 2003 semester. The consensus of the discussion was that there is a difference between cows and people, but the question raised by mediator, Michael Wright became "What is it about humans that makes them distinct other than the fact they are humans? What qualities are morally rele-

vant?"

Contrarily, this was not so clear, as students debated various qualities such as rationality, consciousness, and potential for achievement as possible human distinctions. Some students contended that there is indeed no difference between human life and animal life; however, since

we are all humans we have a bias to believe such. One student posed the possibility that humans are distinct from other animals because they have the ability to deliberately behave, while animals seem to only behave instinctively.

What exactly gives something a right to life? Is a third trimester fetus consid-

ered equally as important as a newborn baby? Where does human life and non-human life intersect, or does it ever? Although the Socrates' Café did not arrive at any concrete answers to these questions, the exploration of these ideas were interesting and evoking to conversation.

## Registration

continued from front page

grades, view their schedule, check on course availability, and most importantly register for classes.

Engineering and graduate students, initially tested online registration via Campus Cruiser, this past spring. After summer upgrades to the campus network and a successful bout with the Welch virus this fall, Campus Cruiser was ready for use by the entire student body.

Pangborn said that the only widespread problem occurred on Wednesday Nov. 19, which he attributed to a very large number

of the sophomore class signing into Campus Cruiser at the same time. Pangborn said that in the future he'd like to see a more even distribution of registration times, something the Registrar would have to assist in.

Heather Lewis, a Junior had this to say "I thought it was easy, it's nice how they tell you right away if the class is full or not. I think that people are only going to have a bad reaction to it because it is new. But as time goes by I think it will be something that's preferred among students."



Photo: Garry Dow

Ice formed along the edges of the stream feeding into the pond outside of MNS, evidence of winter's arrival at RWU. Just a few days prior to New England's first winter storm, which brought roughly one foot of snow to campus along with slickened pathways and a frigid temperatures.

## Political debate

continued from front page

was reached, and the next topic, gay marriage, was brought to the table.

Mattera defined gay marriage as an "oxymoron," and stated the belief that gay marriage is one of the "deviancies abrading our society," in addition to incest and bestiality.

Bogdan responded that gay marriage and bestiality have no correlation, and that denying homosexuals the right to marry lowers them to the position of second-class citizens. Bogdan also referred to a passage in the Bible regarding Jonathan and David, and asserted that their "covenant" was homosexual in nature. The audience responded to this comment

with laughter and outrage. Bogdan went on to declare that gay couples should not be denied the right to adopt children, which was met with incredulity by Mattera.

Mattera compared homosexuals to monkeys, and insinuated that they should not raise children, as it would be a dangerous environment, i.e., Michael Jackson's behavior.

Bogdan argued that Michael Jackson's behavior is a "power" behavior, and has "nothing whatsoever to do with homosexuality."

Moskowitz joined the conversation, asking "Can I make you gay, Jason?"

Mattera replied that he could not be made gay,

because his psyche was already established – and it had been established in his youth.

Moskowitz then questioned Bogdan about the government making concessions to gays, without allowing marriage, "Would that be acceptable to you, Sarah?"

Bogdan responded that, that would not be acceptable, because "Again, that defines them as a separate group."

After barbs were tossed between the three, Adam Maust, president of CHASE the Vote, stepped in to open the floor to questions from the audience.

The questions varied from each topic, and while many students questioned Bogdan about her views on partial-birth abortion, Mattera's questions leaned

more toward his views on gay marriage.

In answer to a strongly oppositional comment regarding partial-birth abortion, Bogdan replied, "This is debating ideology, and there is nothing I can say to convince you of my personal views – but it's her choice, because it's her body, her baby, her DNA."

Mattera received the question, "What would you do, if your son or your daughter told you they were homosexual?" His response was instant, "Take them to counseling. Right away!" The questioner responded, "You think that is going to change them?" Mattera replied, "Oh, I absolutely do believe that it is going to change them because I do not think homosexuality is innate, I think it is a behavior – a

choice, just like being an omni sexual."

Moskowitz then joined in the conversation, asking Mattera, in reference to a previous response from him, "Why do you think you can make somebody heterosexual if you can't make somebody homosexual?" The question was received with loud cheering and clapping from the audience.

Adam Maust stepped in to end the debate after almost thirty minutes of questions, encouraging the students to get out and vote, and commented, "these issues do affect our lives and they will affect them throughout our lifetimes, so I appreciate that you all came, and I hope to see you at our next event."



# ENTERTAINMENT

Volume 14, Issue 9

Wednesday, December 10, 2003

## All you need is love (actually)

By Tracey Lemle  
Staff Writer

This holiday season desires are revealed, secrets exposed and chances are taken, this year all you need is "Love Actually." The Nov. 21 release of "Love Actually," created a sense of holiday spirit and true love throughout theaters countrywide. The movie starts out with main character Huge Grant, stating, "general opinion's started to make out that we live in a world of hatred and greed- but I don't see it like that. Igniting laughter, wreaking havoc, breaking hearts, daring commitments, forcing choices, cat-

apulting spirits, forging inroads, creating risks- ecstatic, exciting, unexpected, unwelcome, inconvenient, inexplicable, inelegant, unequalled....love actually is all around."

"Love Actually" takes place just weeks before Christmas in London, England. The movie has several different story lines that all intertwine towards the culmination of the film, which occurs on Christmas Eve. Love is displayed in each vignette and perceived in a very different way.

Director and screenwriter, Richard Curtis, had the clever idea to take the new bachelor Prime Minister (Huge Grant) and instantly have him falling

in love with the new member of his staff (Martine McCutcheon) and to have a writer (Colin Firth) escape to the south of France to help heal his re-broken heart which quickly mends as he falls back into love right at his lake house. He took a married woman (Emma Thompson) and had her worried and in pure agony over suspecting that her husband (Alan Rickman) was not being faithful and to have new bride (Keira Knightley) mistaking the distance of her husband's best friend for something worse than what it really was.

Curtis also has a little schoolboy trying desperately to get the most unattainable girl in school,



Photo courtesy of imdb.com

while his widowed stepfather (Liam Neeson) tries to learn of his determined child that has suddenly become an enigma to him, while having a very in love junior manager (Laura Linney) craving to have a chance with her never ending office crush and also to have an aging "seen it all, remember very little of it" rock star (Bill Nighy) yearning for an end-of-

career comeback in his own uncompromising way.

Curtis created a masterpiece with such different yet similar love stories all just within miles of each other. As the holidays draw closer, all types of love are being shown and appreciated. This "feel good" movie is certainly a great way to spend your days with the ones you love, actually.

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## La Boheme: An Italian opera

By Aubrey Joyce  
Staff Writer

Giacomo Puccini's *La Boheme* is an opera first performed at the Teatro Regio in Turin on February 1, 1886. Following the premiere, one critic, Carlo Bersezio wrote, "Just as *La Boheme* does not leave much impression in the mind of the listeners, it will not leave much impression on the history of lyric theatre." Contrarily, over one hundred years and 1,149

performances later, *La Boheme* is being performed regularly at the Metropolitan Opera House at Lincoln Center, and large audiences are gathering to witness the performance.

*La Boheme* is comprised of four acts, each being set in Paris in the 1840's. The opera is approximately three hours in length and entirely performed in Italian, however, the audience is provided with an English translation, so they may follow along with the performance. The story of this opera is based on Henry Murger's autobiographical sketches *Scenes de*

*la vie de Boheme*.

The storyline is centered on two lovers, a seamstress, Mimi, and a poet, Rodolfo, and their struggle to come to terms with a sickness that may prove fatal for Mimi. Within this storyline, several other characters help to create a performance that encompasses excitement, humor, fascination, and upset.

Vocally, the performance is riveting, and the atmosphere of the Metropolitan Opera House is simply beautiful. Overall, the performance is impressive, compelling, and will continue to entertain audiences for years to come.

### Join RWU's first winter illumination

Come be a part of the event of the season. Beginning at 5:00 p.m. hot cider, hot chocolate, egg nog, and cookies will be served, accompanied by the melodious sounds of Special Delivery, the Roger Williams a capella group. Mingle on the quad as a brief lighting ceremony commences at approximately 5:15 p.m.

As this is the first year this has been done at the university, a good turnout will ensure that a great program is put on next year, hopefully becoming an event that all clubs and orgs help to implement. The ceremony will be succinct, purposeful and above all else, classy.

If you have any questions regarding this program, do not hesitate to e-mail [adamnoska@hotmail.com](mailto:adamnoska@hotmail.com)



# ENTERTAINMENT

Volume 14, Issue 9

Wednesday, December 10, 2003

## "Gothika" neither grotesque nor good

By Jason Turcotte

Co-Editor

Despite Halle Berry's well-played role as a prison psychologist, Warner Brother's "Gothika" left viewers with a lot of questions, but not the questions director Mathieu Kassovitz would hope, instead: why did I pay \$8.50 to see this film?

"Gothika's" plot centers around prison psychologist Miranda Grey played by Berry, who is haunted by the ghost of a deceased murder victim, which drives her to insanity until Berry unveils the murderer. But for much of the film it is unclear who exactly the antagonist is and whether it

is human or supernatural. Though it does remain clear who the victims of this murderer or being are, as prisoner Chloe, played by Penelope Cruz drops Grey hints alluding to the perpetrator's identity along the way.

Early into the film, Grey finds herself on the opposite side of the bars as she becomes admitted for treatment due to her mental state after being accused of murdering her own husband, a fellow psychologist played by Charles S. Dutton. This chaotic part of the plot occurs too quickly, in a film too slow moving. Once admitted, Grey deals with the frustrations of her colleagues not believing in her visions of the ghost. Her dear friend and fellow psychologist, Pete (Robert

Downey, Jr.) even writes off her explanations as delusional.

After medication upon medication, shock treatment and solitary confinement the great Doctor Grey miraculously is led to the crime scene in time to save yet another victim and expose the murderers, who come as quite a surprise for the audience. Twists and turns in a film typically add dimension, but in "Gothika" it just transcends a tired drawn out plot with senseless shockers that are not only far-fetched, but make little sense.

Even while flirting too much with past plots of films like "Stir of Echoes" and "The Sixth Sense," Berry performs well with her given role. Her development of the neurotic,



Photo courtesy of MCA Universal

Despite Halle Berry's strong performance, "Gothika," the psychological thriller, did little to captivate audiences.

heroic psychologist proves strong. And it becomes difficult for one not too sympathize with this 'crazy' protagonist, as it seems no one is on her side throughout much of the film. "Gothika" does provide some chilling suspense during an extensive chase scene, where Berry busts out of prison in pursuit of uncovering the murder mystery.

But enjoy that scene while it lasts and don't

expect more suspense to follow, only more ridiculous plot twists and pseudo-scary psychoses. Movie buffs are urged to skip this flick, especially if the recent spawn of the 'super-natural thriller' genre has worn you out. If you are looking for chills you're better off trekking up to Alaska, as the 98-minute "Gothika" is slow moving yielding to one pointless plot after another.

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## Upcoming Events

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**Wednesday Dec. 10**

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# CAMPUS LIFE

Volume 14, Issue 9

Wednesday, December 10, 2003

## Students display works in exhibition

By Laurie Schorr  
Staff Writer

The Roger Williams University Metro Campus resembled a Jackson Pollack painting in all its bustling vigor and colorful commotion on the evening of Thursday, November 20th.

The Second Annual Art Society Juried Exhibition, held in accordance with the Providence Gallery Night, brought over forty students, professors, family members, and curious spectators to the third floor of the Metro campus building, where the student gallery was filled with a unique selection of students' artwork.

The Juried Show began at 5pm, and five "jurors" arrived soon after to judge and select the prize-winning artwork. The jury, selected by the Art Society, was composed of Provost Edward Kavanagh, Dean of Arts and Sciences Kurt Torell, Professor of Architecture Charlie Hagenah, local photographer and teacher Cindy Petrucillo and coordinator of Bristol's "Uncommon Art on the Common" Tony Margiotta.

While students and spectators enjoyed each other's company and nibbled on the infamous plethora of cheese, crackers and vegetables, the committee of judges spent nearly 45 minutes admiring the work and carefully selecting pieces that most uniquely demon-

strated the abilities of their respective medium. Out of over sixty entries, the jurors chose nine winning pieces.

The evening was a successful display of the multitude of talent tucked neatly into the portfolios of the Roger Williams University art, architecture and historic preservation students.

Currently, the Metro Campus Gallery is displaying the collected work of Camille Rendel's Special Topic in Sculpture class. Beginning in March, there will be an exciting collage of interests and publicity; the Metro Campus gallery will officially be a part of Gallery Night Providence, and will present new displays of student artwork on the third Thursday of each month.



Photo: Laurie Schorr

Michael Pomerleau and Althea Scully talk about the digital media exhibition while waiting for the announcement of the winners for the Art Society show at the Metro campus.

### The prizes, gift certificates to either SBI Photography or Art Supply Warehouse, were awarded as follows:

- 1st Meriah Burman - Self Portrait
- 2nd Michael Pomerleau - The Dance
- 3rd Meghan Gaumond - All That I Could Not Say

#### Photography / Digital Media Honorable Mention:

- 1 Justin Riley - Untitled
- 2 Nichole Buchanan - Lingering Fingers

#### Painting / Drawing / Printmaking Honorable Mention:

- 1 Jenny Crandall - Nonsense
- 2 Laurie Schorr - The Beauty of a Line

#### Sculpture Honorable Mention:

- 1 Allison Furrer - Untraditional Still Life
- 2 Ryan Binder / Joe Lumenco - The Stump

## Students fair well in building design competition

It was "Junkyard Wars" meets Roger Williams University in New Jersey this past November as six Roger Williams University architecture, engineering and construction management students won first place in a regional building design competition.

In the 2003 Associated Schools of Construction Competition, a team consisting of Captain Travis Varney, Eric Scott, Evan Scott, Tim Vordtriede, Brian Laderbush, and Mike Olivieri proudly accepted their achievement. Fred Gould and Ron Meyers, Professors of Engineering and Construction Management, coached the team to victory.

Eighteen students from the schools of Engineering, Construction Management and Architecture participated in the annual, regional competition to design the most effective, practical and well-developed plans for a specific project. The students were divided into three teams, a "design-build" team, a "heavy highway" team and a "commercial building" team, to construct projects specific to their expertise.

At midnight, all the construction materials were turned in to the judges, who had volunteered from several engineering and construction firms around the country. The following morning, each team was required to display a Power-point presentation of their design and answer any questions posed by the judges. The judges then decide on the first, second, and third place winners based upon the various aspects of the team's design and overall presentation.

The victorious design-build team will compete again next semester on a national level of the construction design competition.

## Senate scribe: Your guide to student government

By Allisyn Deyo  
Staff Writer

November 24: Monday evening the Student Senate reversed a decision made last week by the Finance committee. The decision, to rescind funding for an annual conference for the Classics Club, was hotly debated at the meeting. The Finance committee had pulled funding because the conference was deemed "too academic" and not "beneficial to the University as a whole." Several club members spoke to the senate and after thirty minutes of debate, a bill was passed reinstating the funding for the Classics Club so that they can attend their conference.

After several rounds of questioning, the Student Senate filled the seat left

vacant by Jason Mattera. Senator Mike Fisher, a junior business major, was sworn in to his new position during the meeting. In a few weeks, another seat will open up on the Student Senate and applications for the job will be available in the Senate office.

A bill calling to change the minimum GPA requirement of a Student Senator from a 2.25 to a 2.5 failed. Two other bills were considered and passed. The first was a bill granting the campus radio station, WQRI, monies for equipment purchases, and the second appointed Nathaniel Kennedy to the Clubs and Organizations committee.

December 10: After thirty minutes of discussion Monday evening, a bill granting Delta Sigma Pi funding for a conference in Pittsburgh was passed. The business school fraternity plans to attend the confer-

ence with 30 members, 11 of whom will be funded by the Student Senate.

Senator Mona Hatoum is leaving the Student Senate to study in Italy. Applications for the open seat will be available in the senate office, and the senate will vote on a replacement in January.

Mike Fisher, junior, is the newest member of the Student Senate. A marketing major, Fisher is on the Student Affairs committee and the Academic Affairs committee. In addition to being a member of Delta Sigma Pi, Fisher is the CFO of CHASE (Creating Hope Among Students Everywhere) the Vote. Fisher is looking forward to getting more students involved with the senate, stating, "As a new senator, I think participation is really important."



# CAMPUS LIFE

Volume 14, Issue 9

Wednesday, December 10, 2003

## XC wraps up season with impressive standings; looks forward to a strong 2004 team

By Blaine Moffa

News Editor

Eastern College Athletic  
Conference (ECAC),  
Medford, Mass.,  
Saturday, Nov. 8

### The Men

Running without their top seven runners, the men's cross country team finished with respect; 26<sup>th</sup> out of 33 teams. Senior Mike Hanson lead the team, running a 29:49, beating his own record time by one minute. Freshmen Matt O'Brien also broke the 30 minute barrier, and other close contenders were Seniors James Dabbo and Steve Kervin, finishing 30:53 and 34:06. Sophomore Carlos Neves also beat his personal best, finishing at 34:33.

The ECAC's also bid farewell to four strong and memorable seniors; Captains Mike McCormack and Steve Kervin, as well as Mike Hanson and James Dabbo. The leadership and spirit will be missed. They helped to shape the cross country team into what it was struggling to be only four years ago.

### The Women

The women ran without six of their top seven runners and placed an admirable 11<sup>th</sup> out of 31 teams. Sophomore Emily Labnon lead the team, finishing 20<sup>th</sup> at 24:16. Freshmen Sarah Hay and Christie Kneeland ran their best races of the season at 24:42 and 25:39, respectively. Juniors Meg Melarangi and Merritt Lee ran their fastest races of the season at 26:28 and 26:11. Freshmen

Bridget Williams also broke her personal record by 59 seconds, a remarkable finish after competing the final mile with only one shoe!

National Collegiate  
Athletic Association (NCAA),  
Cumberland, Maine,  
Saturday, Nov. 15

### The Men

The men placed 17<sup>th</sup> in the regional meet against nearly 300 runners. Sophomore Jon Buell lead the team finishing 29<sup>th</sup> at 26:56. Buell was named to the All-New England team, making him the first male runner to be included since 1982. Juniors Eric Van Tassel and James Pingree also finished close together at 28:21 and 28:38. James Dugan, Nick Haas, Matt O'Brien and Dave Strumski also finished very

dous.

"Almost the entire month of August I fell out of shape, I didn't feel like doing anything; I didn't feel like running at all," she recalls.

Emotions have been known to play a large role to motivate athletes, and Lee says it took some time to concentrate on running again. She admits there was never a point where she gave it up, and when she finally did start to train, what drove her on the inside is the exact opposite of what she felt on the outside.

"I promised my mother I wouldn't quit [running]," Lee said. "But... when I did run, it was a time when I actually didn't think about my mom, it helped me get away."

Lee says she thought she wasn't in the best of shape for the season, but emotionally she sought strength from her teammates. Through letters and comforting conversations, she

continued on Page 8



Photo courtesy of Caroline Gates

Above: RWU's John Buell, sophomore, was named this season's All New England Runner.

strong for the men's team, leaving no runner to jump the 30 minute barrier.

### The Women

Mirroring in strength, the women placed 16<sup>th</sup> in the meet. Senior Lynda Wilson finished first for the Lady Hawk's placing 56<sup>th</sup> at 24:06, a 40 place improvement from her best performance. Also, seniors Diane Leith and Nicole

Carreau finished their time at RWU with remarkable times of 24:48 and 25:08, leaving the women with a strong legacy to continue next fall. The seniors are also the only ones to finish a four year career and see four consecutive CCC titles. Also running well at the NCAAs were Marybeth McLaughlin, Emily Labnon, Katie Parisi and Caroline Gates.

## Cross-Country

continued from front page

workouts because I couldn't focus. I didn't want to run and the first few races were awful."

Aiken says towards the middle of her season her motivation increased from the support of her teammates and she ran harder. She still admits it's hard, and was difficult to help her teammates get through their losses.

"Even though everyone went through the same thing and everyone was willing to talk, being the supporter was hard; it brought back memories." She says the team had an amazing season despite it all, with Nicole Carreau running an amazing race in the Commonwealth Coast Conference and Allison Belanger showing tremendous senior leadership to cheer her team on, during a difficult time.

"We definitely had a different motivational drive this year," Aiken said. "We

won last year and may still have won this year [if nothing had happened], but the team was strong."

In July, sophomore Emily Noto-Varney lost her best friend in a car accident, and she used running to help get rid of her aggressions.

"It was so soon before school that I kind of put it aside, but when other tragedies occurred, everything was relived. It was helpful to talk about it with people that went through the same thing," she said.

And then there was freshman Sarah Hay who also suffered the loss of her best friend over the summer. The team heard of all these losses and wondered what the odds were. Little did the team know, the hardships were just beginning.

In July, junior Merritt Lee solemnly dealt with the loss of her mother, who passed away after being sick for some time. While her death was prepared for more so than the rest of the team's losses, Lee says the impact on her ability to concentrate on running was tremen-

## Plans for Mini-mester underway

By Anne Dionne

Contributing Writer

A new three-week-long intersession will begin immediately following spring semester of 2004. This mini semester, or "mini-mester," will give students a chance to take a class and get a course they may need to graduate or make up missed hours in a previous course.

This will be the first year of the spring intersession. It will begin directly after commencement; as a result students do not have to commit themselves to the entire summer. Those participating in this session will still have the advantage of getting out into the work force before high school students. There will be about a dozen courses offered during the new intersession allowing a variety of classes to students.

Edward Kavanagh,  
provost of Roger Williams

University said, "The current winter intersession of only two weeks may be too short, therefore not academically sound. The new mini-mester could lead to phasing out the short winter intersession." This innovative idea is a way to try out a new, more relaxed, intersession with five days of break time over three weeks, rather than only one day off over two weeks during the winter intersession.

"The mini-mester that is currently being proposed would take place immediately after the end of the spring semester. Like winter intersession, a student would be able to take up to 3 credits. It would end by June 4", explained Ruth Koelle, dean at the college of arts & sciences. "There may be the possibility of a course or two that is fewer than 3 credits," she continued saying. The mini-mester is pending final approval, but the schedule is expected out soon.



# SPORTS

Volume 14, Issue 9

Wednesday, December 10, 2003

## Cross-country

continued from Page 7

said it was easier once she started to talk about it. Sophomore Katie Parise even gathered in the huddle before the CCC race and said that they would run for Merrit's mom.

"It threw me off guard a little, but it felt nice," Lee remembers.

Once the season got underway, her motivation increased. "When you see the end of the season ahead of you, you push yourself to get there. It's a waste to come so far and not finish. I didn't want to quit."

Prior to the end, though, at the end of August, what Lee considers the breakdown point of the team's morale happened before the girls even started classes. Senior Allison Belanger received the news that her 24-year old brother Gregory had died while on duty in Iraq. Belanger, a top runner for three years at RWU, made a con-

scious decision to red shirt for the season. This cost the women's team one of their best runners.

Belanger said the support from her teammates was overwhelming. "We're all family," she said.

The very first weekend after her brother's funeral, Belanger attended a race with her father, but only as a spectator. "It was the hardest thing for me to watch because I wanted to be running," she said. "But I saw how well they were doing and it made me happy."

Belanger said the season was hard; unable to run with the team she had grown with for three years. But she will return for an additional semester next fall. "I know I've got next year and that's exciting."

Lee recalls consoling Belanger, and thinking how the team has suffered. Initially, she found it difficult to be supported, and then turn around to be the supporter. "At first I felt like I wasn't ready to help other people, I was still trying to adjust."

Lee said the string of news personally challenged the circle of friends. "We all kind of thought; is this a test to see how strong we can be as a team?"

Carreau said.

Quitting, in fact, is a word that none of the runners seem to be familiar with. After five deaths in the span of three months, their hearts kept the passion for running alive, even when the outside world cast a shadow of strain and doubt.

"There were weeks when we were getting up to run at six in the morning because we had to attend wakes and funerals in the afternoon. It takes a toll on the team," Deely said. "But there's a significant closeness there and the teams

competing men's team very young. In fact, none of the seven runners who competed in November's NCAA races were seniors, which meant that all the top runners are back next fall.

Men's coach Tony Knapp came into the fall as his first season coaching. With little expectations, Knapp says he saw above and beyond what he could have imagined.

"We had some surprising runs. Some had their best runs while they were tired, so when they rested they really ran fast!" He said, adding there were some

"It's amazing to see the progress of the men's team; we're very competitive and dominant. Tony Knapp has been an amazing coach and he will be the key component in the success of the RWU cross country over the next few years."

Van Tassel also says the profundity of the men's team is beneficial to their future. "I don't like to be as inconsistent as I have been recently, but I am thankful that because our team is so close now, someone up and fills the spot."

Coach Deely credits the escalating victories of the season to not only the current senior leadership, which has kept both teams motivated for four years, but also the expectations the athletes have acquired. The runners intimidate other schools on the road; team pride shows at conferences, he says.

Effort is what made five RWU girls and seven RWU men finish in the top 10 of the CCCs. Both teams have a great deal of respect for each other.

Adds Deely, "We have tremendous depth, and that's how we win."

The women's team has grown closer and stronger from the challenges they faced this season. Lee, the junior who lost her mother, says now, before each race, the ladies chant "Hawks Together," symbolizing a united team.

"There's a tight bond that forms with cross country, and we resonate well," senior Lynda Wilson adds. "The classes know no boundaries here."

"You have to be a little crazy to love running," Belanger laughs. "So we have at least that one thing in common."

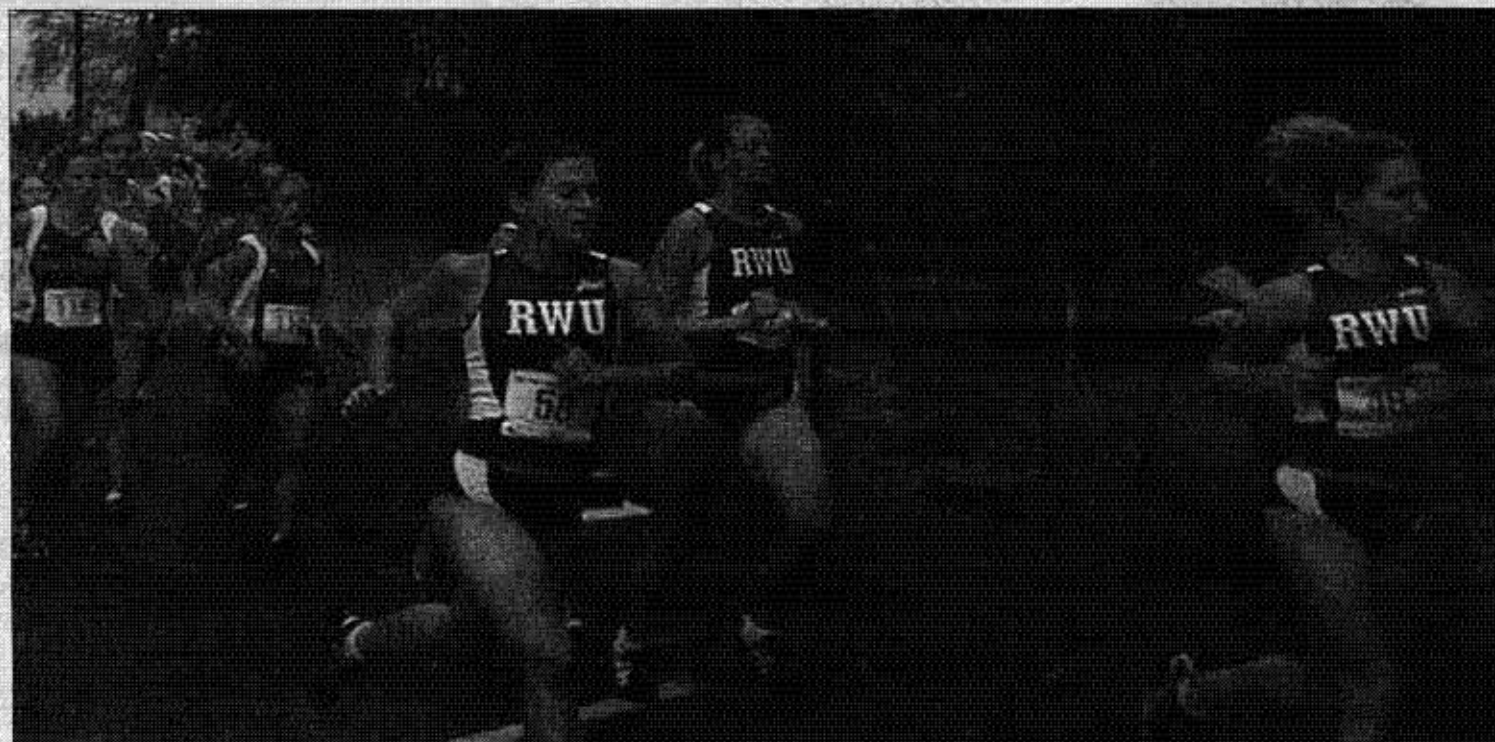


Photo courtesy of Michael McLaughlin

Emily Labnon, Lynda Wilson and Diane Leith lead the way for the Lady Hawks.

Because I don't think we can handle much else."

The team didn't expect it to get any worse. Then, in the beginning of September, Senior Nicole Carreau unexpectedly lost her father in a motorcycle accident. The team was devastated. After taking a couple weeks to go home, Carreau's emotions showed signs of a remarkable recovery.

Her determination and heart gave her the opportunity to compete in her very first cross-country conference, and finish ninth. That race, women's coach Todd Deely says, was her personal best as a collegiate athlete. "We were doing poorly and if we could point out one person, she single handedly won the meet."

"My father wouldn't have wanted me [to quit],"

got through it together. It could have derailed the season but it didn't."

The men's cross country team stuck right by the side of the women throughout their battles, even when they had to fight their own.

Deely is impressed with how well the men's team did just by letting numbers speak for themselves. The men's team lost their best runner, Ryan Corbett, last year when he transferred. This season, they lost their number three runner, JJ Pruner, because of an injury. Above all, senior Christopher Goffredo suffered the loss of his best friend in the beginning of the season, causing a strain on the team as he left to attend funeral services in New Jersey.

The obstacles left the

freshmen that took the responsibility of stepping up during the season and running well for the team.

In particular, Jim Dugan and Jim Maznio surprised Knapp early on in the season. "They passed my expectations after the second meet."

The men's number one and two runners, sophomore Jon Buell and junior Eric Van Tassel gave the men's team the lift they needed to capture their third straight conference win.

Van Tassel, first time captain for the men's team this year who suffered from a slip disc in his back last season, says the team is as strong as he has seen it in three years, and only feels confidence of a successful future.